

A public hearing on a water allocation permit application is a fact-finding action to allow the Bureau of Water Allocation (Bureau) to obtain as much pertinent information as possible regarding a pending application. Often, local citizens with a more in-depth knowledge of local issues raise concerns that may not have been identified in the application or during the Bureau's analysis. This hearing will insure that information relevant to the potential impacts of proposed diversions are not overlooked, and a sound decision on the application can be made. Public comment, specific to the water allocation application's proposed diversions and their impact, is solicited to identify issues that may not have been raised previously.

The Bureau understands that there are other important water supply issues of great concern to the citizens served by United Water Toms River, including the quality of the water being delivered, and the various violations of state regulations by United Water. The Department is committed to ensuring that the drinking water meets Safe Drinking Water Standards for all residents and continues to work with the Department of Health and Senior Services and United Water towards this end. The Department and United Water are also making concerted efforts to keep the CACCCC and other customers apprised of the status of the water supply.

One such issue was the finding in 2005 that sampling at each point of entry of water from treatment facilities into the United Water system indicated the radiological maximum contaminate level (MCL) had been exceeded at three locations. Treatment has been installed at two locations and is planned for the third. In 2006 all points of entry are in compliance with the running annual average radionuclide MCLs.

The water allocation permit review focuses primarily on impacts associated with new or increased water diversions from a particular well or intake. In general, water quality impacts are considered as part of the review to ensure that any proposed diversion will not spread ground water contamination, further the spread of salt-water intrusion, or interfere with ongoing ground water remediation. The Bureau has assessed water quality impacts during the review of this water allocation application. This evaluation resulted in a recommendation that there be no increase in diversion from the Cohansey aquifer sources at the Parkway wellfield and that the monthly allocation limit for the Cohansey diversion sources be reduced. This reduced limit will ensure that steady-state aquifer conditions will be maintained in order to prevent both the spread of ground water contamination and interference with ongoing ground water remediation activities. For routine operation, the Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells

must obtain a NJPDES permit for discharge to ground water in order to insure that the integrity of the PRM aquifer is maintained. In addition, the Department's enforcement element has entered into Administrative Consent Agreements with United Water to insure that delivered water meets safe drinking water standards.

While these associated issues remain important and the Department continues to work on their resolution, this forum is intended to address the pending water allocation application and we request that comments be limited to the requested diversions and issues specific to the pending water allocation permit application. At this time Andy MacDonald, the staff reviewer, will provide an overview of the application.